

Randolph Township Trustees Regular Meeting Thursday, January 23, 2014

Chairman Sue White opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge. Sue stated that she reviewed the previous meeting draft minutes and found them to accurate. She asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mike moved to accept the previous meeting minutes as written. Sue seconded. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes. Present: Trustees Sue White, Roger Klodt, Mike Lang, FO Mary Rodenbucher, D. Kolasky, B. Murphy, D. Rice, R. Huth, P. Hyde, M. Hyde, C. Doak, M. Nichols, J. Jenior, T. Baker, D. Huth

**Old Business**

The trustees have no old business at this time.

**New Business**

Roger stated that the EMS levy is up for renewal. He spoke to Chief Lang and went over the figures that he and Mary reviewed. Roger stated that with expenses continually increasing we need more money to maintain what we have. Roger strongly stated that we are not planning to build a new fire station or add a full-time department. The current levy was originally passed in 1990. According to Mike the one mill levy was renewed or replaced over the 24 years. We not sure if we can secure the same amount with the same time. Chief Lang spoke to all separately and feels an additional mill would be sufficient. He does not want to ask for more than we need. Roger moved to replace the one mill EMS levy with a 2 mill EMS levy to be voted on in May. Sue seconded. Discussion: Sue disagrees. She does not think it is enough. She has reviewed all the figures for the township. Sue commented that Randolph has the second lowest millage in the county for fire/EMS services. We are not second lowest in service. Part of the reason we have been able to maintain the department as we have is that many things we are able to take care from within and with the help of outside individuals who donate much of their time. In conversation with Chief Lang, Sue wanted to raise it 2 mills, making it a 3 mill levy. We have up-to-date equipment and need to maintain and improve what we have. Sue feels saving a life is important. Sue asked people to think long and hard about supporting this levy. The trustees do not want to lose any personnel. Sue understands that the school levy just passed and that many people are on a fixed income which could cause a burden. Mike feels we are treading on unstable ground. Mike commented that even though the call volume has tripled since 1990 most of the calls are during the day when we are staffed. Mike is wary about asking for too much. He feels we should ask for a replacement in the future. Sue stated that we are seeing reduced revenue but increased costs. Sue stated that most homeowner's insurance has gone down due to staffing which reduced the response time. Sue feels that the savings from insurance will pay for 1 mill. Sue will go along with the recommendation from Chief Lang and the other board members. There was discussion about cost. Paul would vote for any amount of the levy. Gary feels Chief Lang might be correct. With health insurance going up it is tough for some. Mike stated that a large increase was sound defeated about 8 – 10 years ago. Sue commented that all EMS billing goes right to the EMS fund. Sue does not want us to run out of money in the fire department. Sue stated that the department has been very diligent with their funds. We have stretched them as far as we can. Doug asked what would happen if the levy does not pass. Mike explained the soft billing, fire levy, and EMS levy funding. The fire levy maintains the station and equipment while the EMS levy and soft billing provide the salary and benefits for personnel. Mary explained that we will have two chances to pass the levy in May and November. Doug asked about other options to raise funds. Mike explained soft billing for EMS transports. This has enabled us to staff the station for as long as we have. Paul asked how long the levy runs. Roger stated that it is for five (5) years. There was discussion about seeking additional mills at that time versus renewal and increase the current levy. Sue explained that home values have gone down. Sue reiterated that it is critical that it passes. Roger revised his original motion to place a 1 mill levy renewal with an additional 1 mill increase on the May 6, 2014 ballot for EMS services. Sue seconded. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Mike and Sue have nothing at this time.

Mary placed copies of the December bank reconciliation in the trustee's mailboxes. She asked if there were any questions. Sue moved to accept the December bank reconciliation. Mike seconded. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Mary received the 2013 certified road mileage from the Portage County Engineer. Randolph Township has 31.280 certified miles to maintain. Mike moved to accept the certified road mileage as presented. Roger seconded. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Mary explained the change in the filing requirements for the levy. Mike moved to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. for the purpose of approving the resolution to proceed to place the EMS levy on the May ballot. Sue seconded. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Mary stated she has had conversations with Sue regarding the General Fund. Mary stated that we usually receive the cable franchise fees at the end of the month. If the trustees feel it would be cutting it too close we can request an advance of our property tax distribution. Sue moved to request an advance of our property tax distribution. Mike seconded. Discussion: Sue stated that revenue has gone down and expenses have gone up. We have to tighten our belts to make it work. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Mary requested a motion to appropriate receipts 6 – 12 totaling \$5,655.67 and pay warrants 35120 – 35167 and EFT/vouchers 11 – 17 totaling \$33,273.09. Roger so moved. Mike seconded. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Dan presented the Administrative Assistant report. Two permits were issued. Dan has been in contact with the Bassett Road owner's son. He has requested a response by the end of this week as to their plan with the property. Mike feels we need to know by mid-February. Dan stated that he has conveyed this information to the son. ZBA was continued to February 17. Dan has been researching if the township or property owners in the township are required to provide sidewalks. Dan is also working on a township wide inventory of potential Junk Motor Vehicles. He has approximately 27 properties that he will be sending letter. Sue stated that we have been a reactionary board for zoning enforcement. We have the book which should be followed. The people need to voice something at the trustee meetings. Roger received a complaint from Howard Kline about the right of way for the sidewalk across the street. Roger called ODOT who stated that the right of way on SR 44 is 60 feet. This works out to 30 feet on each side of the center line. Roger spoke to Jeff Sarchione and the cars were moved immediately. The cars will not be on the right of way from this point forward. Roger stated that there is plenty of room for two people to walk comfortably. Sue asked if any sidewalks were there for the past 30 year. Mike feels it is more like 50 years with no sidewalks. Mike explained where the sidewalk initially was and stated that it was never in good condition in his lifetime. Roger stated the sidewalk was for the purpose of the school when it was built. Sue received complaints about the town center. Sue stated that she is pro Randolph. She personally feels the Sarchione's are good for Randolph. Sue will not be afraid to tell Sarchione's if they are not doing what they are supposed to do. Some people are upset with the property. Sue stated that she is not the sheriff; only a trustee. When someone wants to do something that is not in the zoning book they need to get a variance. Sue wants to make it perfectly clear that she does not like hypocrisy. She wants Randolph to look as nice as it possibly can look. A property across from Bob's Pizza was a car dealership. Another trustee was on board at that time. Sue asked if there was a variance for that car dealership. Dan stated that absolutely not. Sue explained the procedure that was followed. Sue does not want anyone to be picked on. We are going to try to do things right. She commented that people should not tell the trustee's how to do their job when they do not follow the rules themselves. Sue asked about charging for infractions. Dan stated that we cannot do that. A Portage County judge must authorize it. Sue asked if we have sent anything to a judge and how long we have been waiting. Dan stated that one has been with the judge for four years. Dan stated that the only way to enforce the charges would be to have a constable. Terry confirmed the ODOT right-of-way regarding the sidewalk. His boundary is inside of the poles. He has nowhere else to park. He stated that anyone can walk by his property with no problems. Sue stated that no person is less important than other. Paul remembers about a body shop and garage along with selling cars. Sue reiterated that another trustee was in charge of zoning at that time.

Dan explained the zoning process for a variance. Portage County Court is the final step. Sue was asked about an appeals process. Sue asked if it is correct that the trustees do not vote on anything. Dan stated that is correct. It is up to the zoning boards only. Sue stated that if anyone has questions they should ask Dan. He is very knowledgeable about zoning.

### **Public Comment**

Cathy Doak presented information about proposed pipelines going through the township. She commented that she might be at the wrong meeting. She is concerned about the type of materials going through pipelines. Cathy wants to take advantage of any controls we can enforce. She does not understand how all this works. Some questions that came up were: Does anyone know of any zoning controls the township can put in place? This would be helpful for future pipelines that are being planned. She stated that we need to protect our community

with rules on the books. Sue went to the Commissioner's meeting regarding the pipeline. One of the things that concerns Sue are the untruths that residents are being told to sign contracts. Sue strongly recommends having an attorney review the contract. Sue stated that an informational meeting will take place in Randolph on February 15.

Rick asked where the pipeline was going through. Paul stated through his property. Mike stated it also affects Meacham's property. Rick asked how many pipelines are through Randolph. Mike found the oldest pipeline is 1936. Cathy commented that a Sun Oil pipeline starts in Mogadore and goes through Suffield, Randolph due east. Rick asked if any variance is needed for the pipeline. He does not feel it makes a difference. Mike stated that Farm & Dairy reports on groups that pool money together to beat the system. Rick asked how deep it goes. Cathy explained the different types of pipelines have different depths. Rick asked if the resident receives any benefits. Cathy was not sure if there was any prior easement in place. New easements will have to be negotiated. Cathy stated they are very vague of what could be negotiated.

Bob agreed with the comments about the Orth car lot. Bob explained what he heard about the pipeline easements. Bob heard that they can take land if needed for gas/oil wells. He stated that the law in the State of Ohio allows land to be taken away. Cathy does not like mandatory pooling. Bob had a suggestion for budget cuts. He feels the home association for the allotment should pay for the lights not the township. Bob commented that the association wanted the lights put in to sell the lots. Sue will look into it.

Doug questioned the EMS billing. Mike explained the fee is based on the level of care given. Roger thought it was \$750 to transport to an area hospital. Roger explained that the amount we collect is what the insurance pays. We do not bill residents for the balance. The policy was changed about a year ago that non-residents would be billed for the balance. Roger explained the reason for the difference is that the residents pay taxes for this service whereas non-residents do not pay any taxes. Roger reiterated that we are just trying to maintain what we have.


Bob stated that he has used the services quite a bit and is very happy with the service. Bob stated that the cost was \$775 for each call. The fee breaks down to \$525 for transportation and \$250 for medical treatment. Bob stated we should have had it all along. Bob asked why the sheriff comes to EMS calls. Mike stated that they come around if they are in the area. Roger explained that the initial call goes to the Sheriff's office where it is then transferred to Stow.

Sue moved to go into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Roger seconded.  
RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Roger moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:00. Sue seconded. RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

Sue moved to have the trustee's voluntarily pay 20% of their medical insurance premium. Roger seconded.  
RCV: Roger – yes; Mike – yes; Sue – yes.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

  
Susan White, Chairman

  
Mary A. Rodenbucher, Fiscal Officer